## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A computerized method for protecting a software application against software piracy comprising the steps of:

choosing a component; and

executing said component inside a secure environment.

2. The method claimed in claim 1 further comprising the step of choosing one or more local metrics.

3. The method claimed in claim 2 further comprising the step of verifying the metric or metrics and creating a result.

4. The method claimed in claim 3 further comprising the step of operating not at all, operating in reduced functionality mode, or reporting the result to a reportee, based on the verification result.

5. The method claimed in claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

checking if a required software component is missing, damaged, or has otherwise been altered; and

operating not at all, operating in reduced functionallity mode, or reporting the state of said altered component.

6. The method claimed in claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

checking for a prohibited software component; and

operating not at all, operating in reduced functionality mode, or reporting the existence of said prohibited component.

7. A system for protecting software against piracy comprising:

a processing unit;

a system memory coupled to the processing unit though a system bus;

a computer-readable medium coupled to the processing unit through a system bus;

an operating system excuted from the computer-readable medium;

a secure environment;

a software application; and

a component which will execute in the secure environment.

8.  The system claimed in claim 7 further comprising one or more metrics.

9.  The system claimed in claim 8 further comprising means for verifying said metrics.

10.  The system claimed in claim 9 further comprising communication means for reporting said metrics.

11.  The system claimed in claim 9 further comprising means for operating not at all or operating in reduced functionality mode.

12.  The system claimed in claim 10 further comprising means for operating not at all or operating in reduced functionality mode.

13.  A method of compiling source code to prevent piracy of the resulting object code comprising the steps of:

choosing a component to be executed in a secure environment; and

compiling said component to execute in said secure environment.